



DIOCESE OF TRURO  
DISCOVERING GOD'S KINGDOM  
GROWING THE CHURCH

Our ref: RES/1117

20<sup>th</sup> November 2017

To Licensed Clergy, Safeguarding Co-ordinators and PCC Secretaries

### **An update from Nigel Druce, Chair of Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel**

Dear Colleagues,

This is the second letter to bring everybody up to date with the work of the safeguarding team and deliberations of the Panel. Our meeting immediately followed the SCIE inspection of the Diocese in which some of you were directly involved.

We were able to share the informal feedback given on the day to the Bishop's leadership team by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) inspectors and this was summarised to the panel. Whilst this information was the inspector's preliminary thoughts, we now have received the draft report which confirms what they verbally opined whilst expanding on the detail. Their final report will be published just before Christmas and will be shared widely across the church, our partners in safeguarding and, of course, with the public. In the meantime the good news is that the inspectors found that the Diocese is fully committed to safeguarding and progressing well on making Cornwall safer. SCIE held the view that the transfer in responsibility from +Tim to + Chris has gone very well and had not led to any diminution in the progress that has been made over the last ten years in Cornwall in safeguarding. The Safeguarding Panel itself is seen as forward looking and the recent changes in membership are in line with up to date thinking.

The "Sloan<sup>1</sup>" and "Cade<sup>2</sup>" reports were noted as illustrating our commitment to ensuring an understanding of safeguarding at grass roots level and real desire for further improvements. There was comment that these reports had resulted in tangible changes in attitudes and practice and that overall the parish involvement was very good. It was observed that case work is of a good standard with the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) perceived as being readily available and that she receives proper professional supervision. Also noted was that Archdeacons work well and there is a good relationship with the Cathedral. Overall there is evidence that the whole Diocese is a learning organisation.

The areas that require action include the Panel developing a quality assurance function. Additionally the Panel requires a new training and development strategy. The inspectors also recommended consideration of forming a sub group to oversee case closure matters and also monitoring safeguarding agreements and risk assessments. The need to reinforce to everyone that all safeguarding concerns are referred to the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor was also noted. These issues will be considered by the Audit group in the very

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<sup>1</sup> Jane Sloan report titled "Truro Diocese Overview of Safeguarding 1994 to 2017"

<sup>2</sup> Simon Cade's report titled "Living Water review of LPM and LWL Ministry and safeguarding"

near future and recommendations brought to the earliest Panel Meeting.

Of course there was much more detail in a forty page report which will be available when the final version is published. Other matters dealt with at the October Panel meeting included the draft whistleblowing and complaints policies and documentation. Our Diocesan Secretary advised us that they should be available for circulation by the year end.

The panel also considered Jane Sloan's excellent report in detail and thanked her warmly for what was, as the SCIE team said, a possibly unique piece of work! Its publication was, of course, only possible due to the full collaboration of all the parishes she visited. The analysis of the data, which Lynda Barley worked on, showed how over two years of interviews the performance and compliance with safeguarding policies improved as parishes learned from each other. This is an important issue as it shows how the type of sympathetic approach adopted in the parish audit results in an uplifting of standards. The panel will be considering how this important work can be built on over the coming years.

The panel were delighted to learn that +Chris has agreed to personally host four conferences across the Diocese next summer. These events will update every parish on the changes arising from the SCIE report. Of equal importance will be the opportunity to develop with you a new cultural approach to safeguarding which suites our diocese. Please pencil the following dates in your diary: The dates are: **Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July, and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July** all from 11.00 am - 2.00 pm. Invitations to the Conferences will be sent out early in the New Year together with the venue information.

Finally, and as the new chairman it falls to me to congratulate you all on the standards you have already achieved in your commitment to safeguarding in the Diocese in recent years. There is more work to be done, but we are well on the way to making sure that together we make Cornwall a safer place for everyone.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel Druce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N' and a long, sweeping underline.

Nigel Druce